

73rd Reading (Park) Scout Group

Summer 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the 73rd Reading (Park) Scout Group newsletter for Summer 2016.

We wish all of our young people and their parents a fun and relaxing summer, whatever you are doing. Thanks for your involvement and contributions this year; we look forward to seeing you again at meetings and events from September.

The Group is **looking for more Beavers to join the section**. Beavers is for children aged between 6 and 8. They get up to lots of fun activities and also have the opportunity for nights away on camp. There are two sections meeting weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays for about an hour. Contact Darren or Simon, the Beaver leaders (beavers@parkscouts.org.uk) for more information.

The Groups also **needs more adult volunteers to help with sessions** across all age groups. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, get in touch the Group Scout Leader, Tony Phillips (Anthony.ej.phillips@gmail.com). Younger volunteers (age 14 and above) are also welcome.

If you **want to contribute to the next newsletter**, please send items to Nathan Helsby. (nathan_helsby@hotmail.com).

Upcoming events

Summer jamborees: Explorers head north to Roihu in Finland for the Finnjamboree (20-28 July), while Scouts are closer to home in Essex (30 July - 6 August)

Sections will meet up again in week commencing September (to be confirmed)

Church parades on 25 September 2016 (Harvest), 13 November 2016 (Remembrance), 11 December 2016 (Christmas).

Message from the Group Scout Leader

It has been another very busy term with all sections running a packed and varied programme every week as well as offering nights away opportunities for all the young people in the group: The Beavers joined the Cubs for a joint camp at Youlbury in July, the Scouts were sleeping rough to raise funds for the Launchpad Charity, the Explorers jet off to Finland for the 7th International Finnjamboree in Southern Finland, near the town of Hämeenlinna, and finally the Scouts are going to the equally exciting, if less exotic sounding, Essex International Jamboree. My thanks to all the Leaders who continue to give their time to ensure the young people can enjoy such a varied scouting experience at 73rd Reading.



Sadly we have to say goodbye to Owen Cain and Tom Knight who move on from the leadership team at the end of the summer.

Owen, aka Icki, has been an Assistant Cub Leader for a year while undertaking his third-year placement; Owen returns to Northumberland for the final year of his degree and we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Tom re-joined the Scouting movement in September as an Explorer having been a Cub with Park. Tom came along to help with Cubs as a young leader. Tom will be heading to Exeter to start his degree in September and we wish him all the very best in the next chapter of his life

News from the Sections

Huntley Beavers (Monday) and Palmer Beavers (Wednesday)

Both Monday night and Wednesday night Beavers have had a great term of activities. This included two dressing up sessions, as Star Wars characters on the 4th May (May the fourth be with you!) and as royalty (or corgies!) for the Queen's 90th birthday. Beavers have also been learning the importance of road safety. Highlights of the term, however, have been the trip to Atom Trampoline Centre, and the Summer camp at Youlbury with Cubs. For some Beavers, this was their first night away: well done! We also say farewell and good luck to Beavers who swam up to Cubs this term.



Beaver and Cub sections had a great time at the Atom trampoline centre

Cubs

Cubs have had another busy term with lots of exciting activities. Cubs worked towards earning their cyclist badge by looking at some cycle maintenance, safety and going for a ride round Palmer Park. We also went to Gilwell Park for a Fun Day as part of the Cub Centenary Celebrations and had a fantastic evening at the Atom Trampoline Centre.



Are you looking at me? Cubs make friends at Gilwell park

In early July we had a joint Cub and Beaver Camp at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre where Cubs enjoyed firelighting, Archery, 3G Swing and the customary camp-fire. We rounded off the term with a short hike then the following week stomp-rockets in Palmer Park. While the Cubs were stomping their launchers, the young leaders were Pokemon hunting!

Scouts

Scouts have had another exciting term, including favourite games in the park and their version of 'the Great Egg Race'. In anticipation of the British Open Golf tournament, there was a trip to the driving range, where Scouts perfected their swings and took out their frustrations on little white balls. A group of Scouts also participated in the Launchpad event; armed with sleeping bags, cardboard boxes and without mobile phones (!), they braved the elements overnight at Paddicks Patch. Well done to all who participated; £760 has been raised to date via the Just Giving page.

Explorers

East Reading Explorers have enjoyed a wide range of activities during the spring. The Explorers always play a big role in planning and running their own programme and this has led to evenings of Dungeons and Dragons and a three pound Masterchef challenge. Our more adventurous activities this term have included playing British Bulldog (in Kayaks) on the Thames and taking to the air in gliders over Wiltshire.



An airbound Explorer

We also had two teams complete the Three Towers Hike both beating their times from last year.

Our Survival camp in February was a great success even though the explorers camped with no tents, cooked with no utensils and, by the look of some of them, got no sleep!



Tired explorers survive camp



By the time you read this the Explorers will have arrived at the Roihu Jamboree in Finland. This is an international camp with over 16000 participants. We will be camping in the forests of southern Finland side by side with a local scout unit which will allow us to enjoy a lot of great scouting activities with scouts from around the world

News from the Executive

The Executive are the trustees of the Scout Group who oversee the running and financial management of the Group, ensuring that we continue to support the activities of the young people in a safe and sustainable manner.

AGM Meeting on 16 May

The Scout Group held its Annual General Meeting on the evening of Monday 16th May. This was attended by the majority of the Scout Executive members and Group Leaders, several officials from Reading Central District, some church members as well as one brave new Beaver parent! As well as re-electing people to posts on the executive, the group's accounts were presented by our excellent Treasurer Jenny Phillips and the Annual Report by our Group Scout Leader Tony Phillips (truly a family affair). Paul Bandy the District Commissioner congratulated the group on the presentation of report and how it showed evidence of the varied and exciting programme we run for our Group. If you would like to read a copy of the report, this can be found on our website at:

<http://www.73rdreading-scoutgroup.org.uk/executive.php>

In early June we hosted the District AGM at Park and two of our Explorers gave a presentation on their up-coming trip to the Roihu Jamboree in Finland, for which the District has generously contributed £200 towards the costs.

Senior citizens' Christmas party 2016

The date is set (11 December 2016) and a subgroup of the executive will begin preparations in September. More news to follow.

Parent representative vacancy

There are currently three Parent Representatives on the Executive: Nathan Helsby (Cubs), Karen Close (Scouts), and Louise Sutton (Explorers). There is currently a vacancy for a Beaver parent representative. This is a great opportunity to input into the Group's activities and represent the parent voice; the time commitment is a 1-2 hour meeting two to three times a term. If you are interested, please contact Sheena (smaso@hotmail.co.uk), the Secretary to the Executive, in the first instance.

Park Church news

This September the church is running another Harvest Show. Anyone can enter and there are various categories including photography, baking, home grown vegetables/flowers etc. Further details will be in next month's magazine and on the church website. Harvest Show is on Saturday 24th September.

Families are welcome at all services (please see our website www.parkurc.org.uk).